

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/026,823  
Amendment filed May 8, 2007  
Reply to OA dated February 8, 2007

**REMARKS:**

Claims 1-6 and 10-19 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 2, 12, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended herein.

The Examiner has indicated that claims would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 set forth in the Office Action dated February 8, 2007.

A. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 10-19 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112, as being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for the following reasons.

The Examiner has suggested that features relating to a "conditions-designating processing unit" and a "conditions-designating screen" are vague and indefinite. Also, the Examiner has suggested that the information to be stored in a customer information database is vague and indefinite.

The features disclosed in the subject application provide at least the following procedures by using the conditions-designating processing unit.

- (1) A user inputs a user ID to the color-designating server, and the user is specified by retrieving the user ID from the customer database.
- (2) When the user has been identified, use information of the user is extracted from the customer database. The use information includes requirements relating to items to be colored predetermined in correlation with the user ID, and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used in dependence upon the requirements.
- (3) The conditions-designating processing unit generates a conditions-designating screen for displaying the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment specified for the user, and transmits the conditions-designating screen to the user terminal so that the user can select conditions data from a range specified by the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment displayed on the conditions-designating screen.
- (4) The use data receiving unit receives from the user terminal the conditions data designated by the user.

- (5) The color data transmitting unit determines colors which can be matched under the conditions specified by the conditions data by consulting the matchable color database, and transmits a result to the user terminal so that the user can select a color at the user terminal from the colors determined by the color data transmitting unit.

According to the features disclosed in the subject application, because the customer database stores use information including requirements relating to items to be colored predetermined in correlation with the user ID and types of resin and dye or pigment which can be used for the requirements, the color-designating server can transmit a conditions-designating screen for displaying the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment so that the user can select conditions data from a range specified by the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment.

Therefore, the scope of selection displayed on the condition-designating screen is restricted to a range operable for the user, and designation of the requirements and the types of resin and dye or pigment can be performed easily. Thereby, it is possible for the user to accurately designate a suitable color for a product to be manufactured.

The Examiner has discussed Figure 6. The Figure 6 of the subject application shows an example of the condition-designating screen produced for a specified user by an example of the conditions-designating processing unit.

In this example, the conditions-designating processing unit generates a conditions-designating screen displaying requirements (including Molding method (61), Use of the product to be manufactured (63), and Cost for the product (64) and Types of resin (62 and 65) specified for the user. The user can select conditions data (for example, "Inflation", "HDPE", "Shopping bag", "1000-2000", and "PL-Z") from the range specified by the conditions-designating screen. Accordingly, the example shown in FIG. 6 does not conflict with the claims of the subject application.

In response to this rejection, claims 1, 2, 12, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended herein in a manner intended to further clarify the claimed invention.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claims 1-6 and 10-19 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 should be withdrawn.

B. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 10-19 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, as lacking enablement.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, for the following reasons.

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The Examiner has suggested that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for conditions outside of the manufacturing arena.

In response to this rejection, all independent claims have been amended herein to set forth "designating color of a product to be manufactured" in a manner intended to further clarify the claimed invention.

The specification reasonably provides enablement for the scope of the claims 1-6 and 10-19, as amended.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of claims 1-6 and 10-19 under the first paragraph of 35 USC 112 should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being considered are in condition for examination.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time, and any other fees which may be due now or in the future with respect to this application, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,  
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